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Words Are CAtegorical



Hairy, Scary, Ordinary



What Is an Adjective?

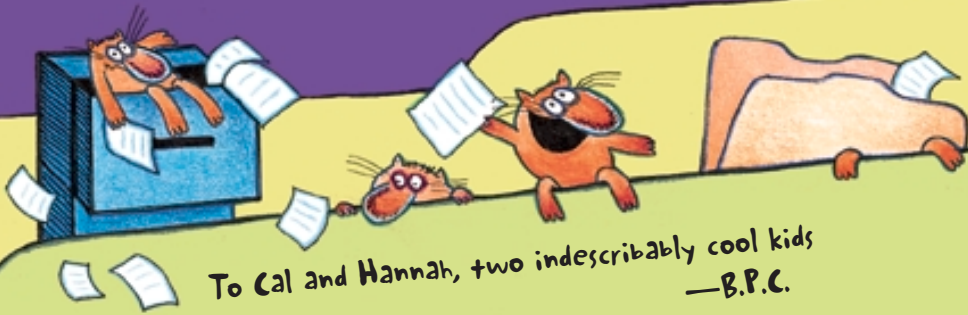
by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Jenya Prosmitsky

Hairy, Scary, Ordinary

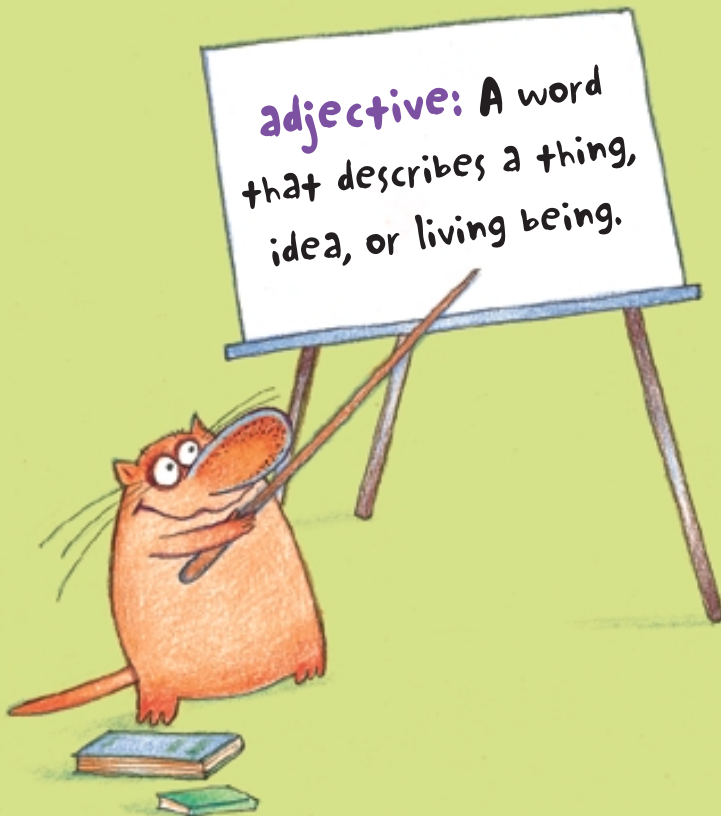


What Is an Adjective?



To Cal and Hannah, two indescribably cool kids
—B.P.C.

To my grandmother Anastasia, the first artist
in our family —J.P.





Hairy, Scary, Ordinary

What Is an Adjective?

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Adjectives are
words
like
hairy.



Scary, **cool**,
and **ordinary**.



They describe,

like **tan**

and **tall**,



Funny,

frisky,



smooth, and
small!



They tell us
things

are

orange

or

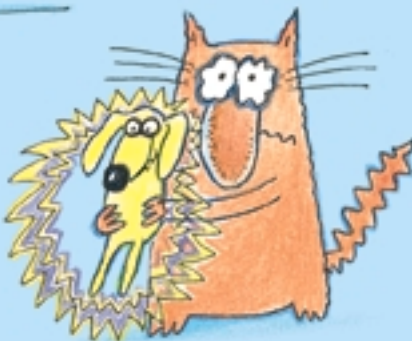
green,



Hot or cold

or in-between,

Leaky,



Squeaky,



ancient,

new,



Easy,

breezy,

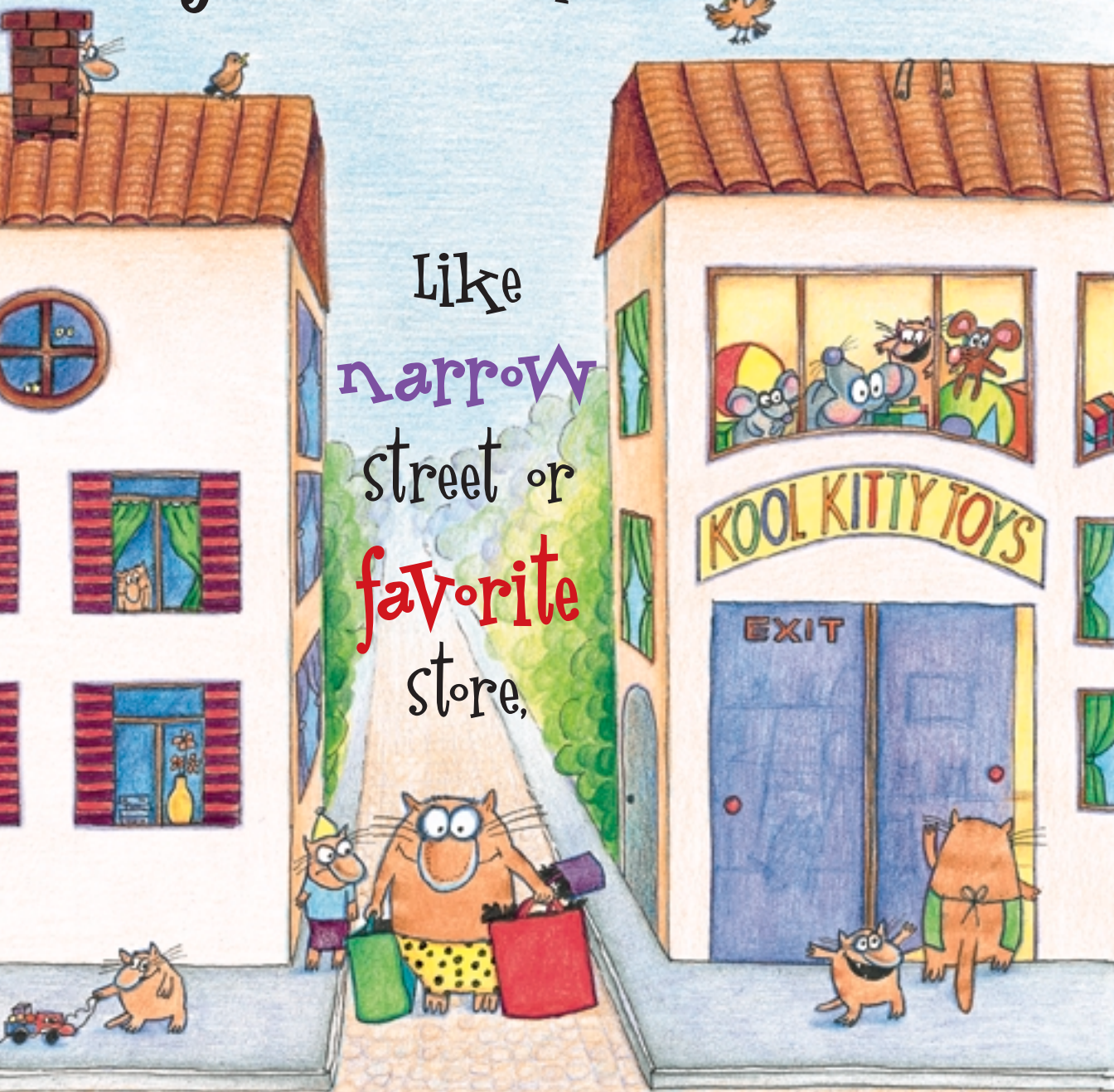


broken, blue.



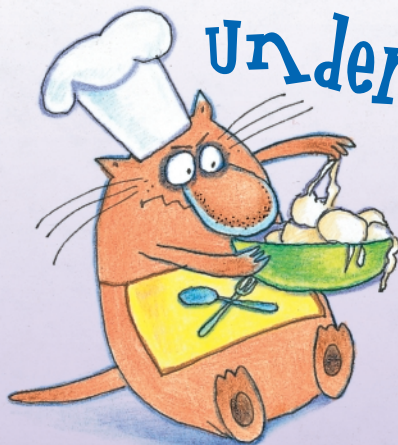
Adjectives help tell us more,

Like
narrow
street or
favorite
store,



Hilly, chilly,

fast, and
fun,



undercooked

and

overdone.



They tell us of an
old black boot,



A rainy day,
a wrinkled suit,

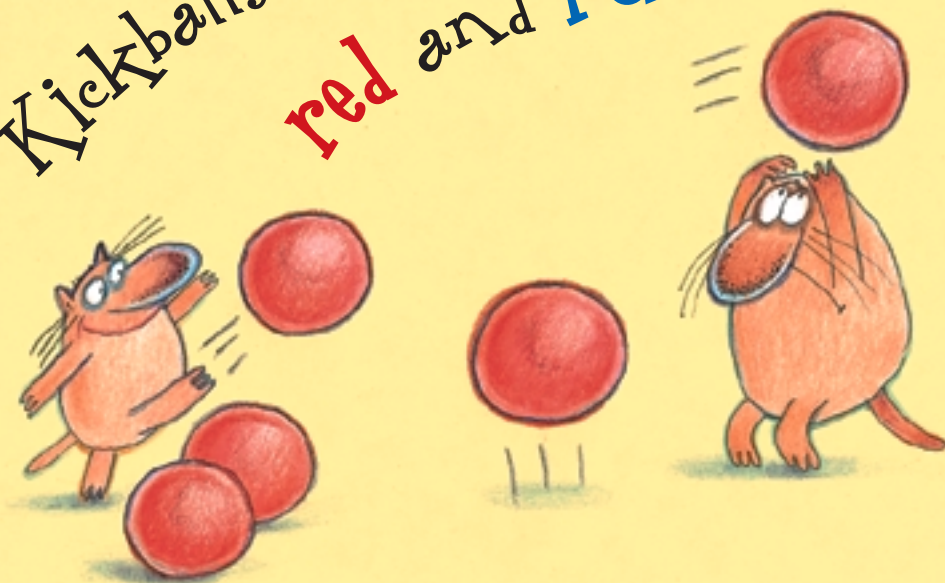


A silly
teacher,
giant
hair,



A large cow
at the local fair—

Kickballs that are
red and **rubber**,



Spot's **clean** fur each time
you scrub her,





cold, dark mornings,

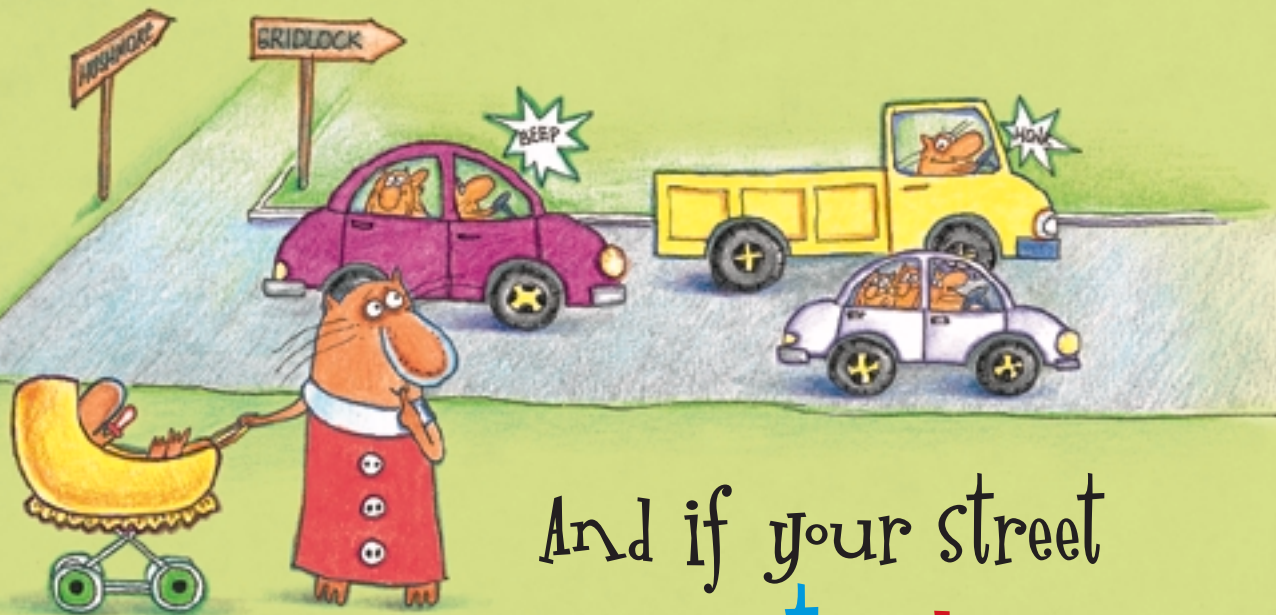
hot pink
shades,



Young girls
drinking
lemonades.



They tell if root beer's
flat or fizzy,



And if your street
is quiet or busy,



That treats
are **yummy**.

shakes are
thick,



And if your
tummy's **calm**
or **sick**.

They're colorful, like mauve
and puce,

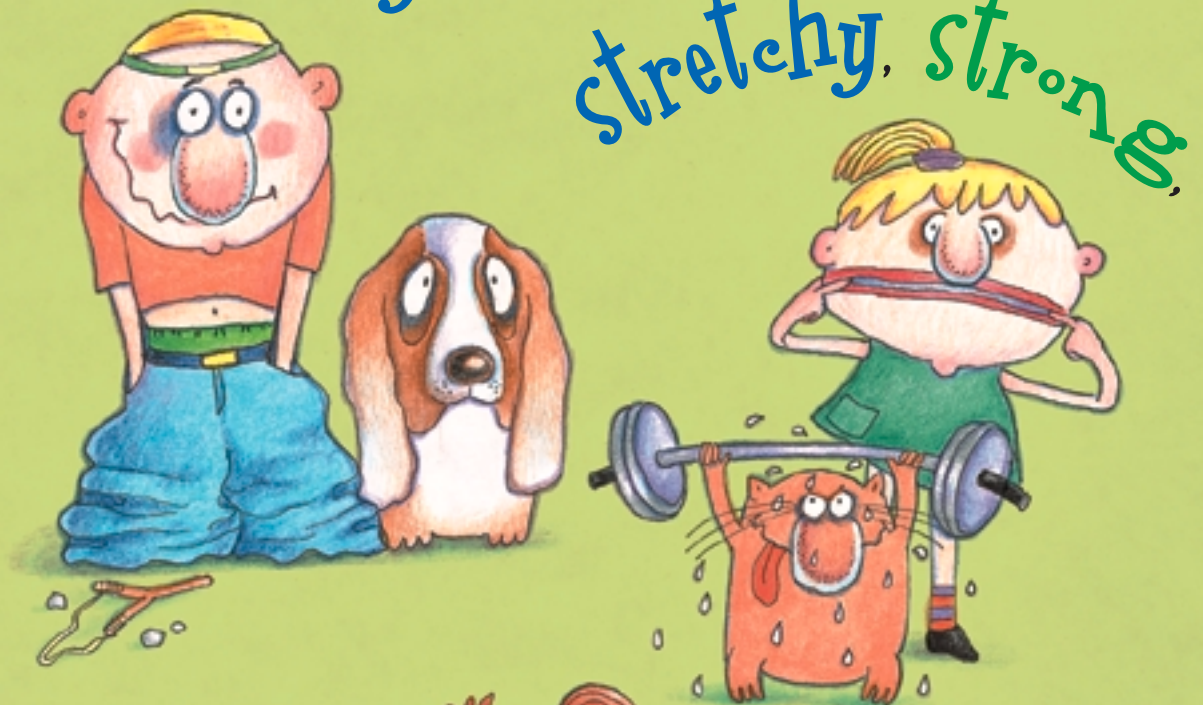


They help explain, like

lean and loose,



Baggy, saggy,
stretchy, strong,



Much
too short



or way too long.

Adjectives are words
like
flashy.



Vibrant,
bright, and
somewhat
trashy.





Frilly,
silly,

polka-dotted,



single-looped



or
double-knotted.

Words like
spunky,



rather
clunky,



Priceless, nice,



or downright **junky**,

Speedy, Spoiled,



Spiffy, Spare,

Thrifty, nifty,



bronze and bare.



They modify nouns
in ways that help tell us



If
someone's
Sincere,



delighted, or **jealous,**

If jackets are
herringbone,
pinstriped, or plaid,



If babies
are
crabby, excited, or glad.



They
tell us
that
shows
are **stupid** or **funny**,



of books that
are **stuffy**,
amazing, or **punny**



of looks that are **frightening**,

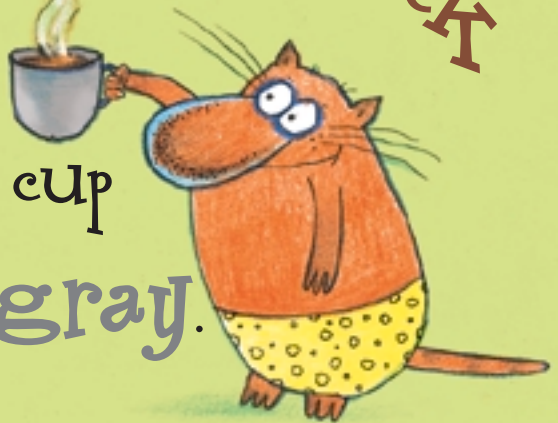


dogs that are **stray**,



of coffee that's **black**

in a cup
that is **gray**.



Adjectives help us
describe when
we're **tired**,



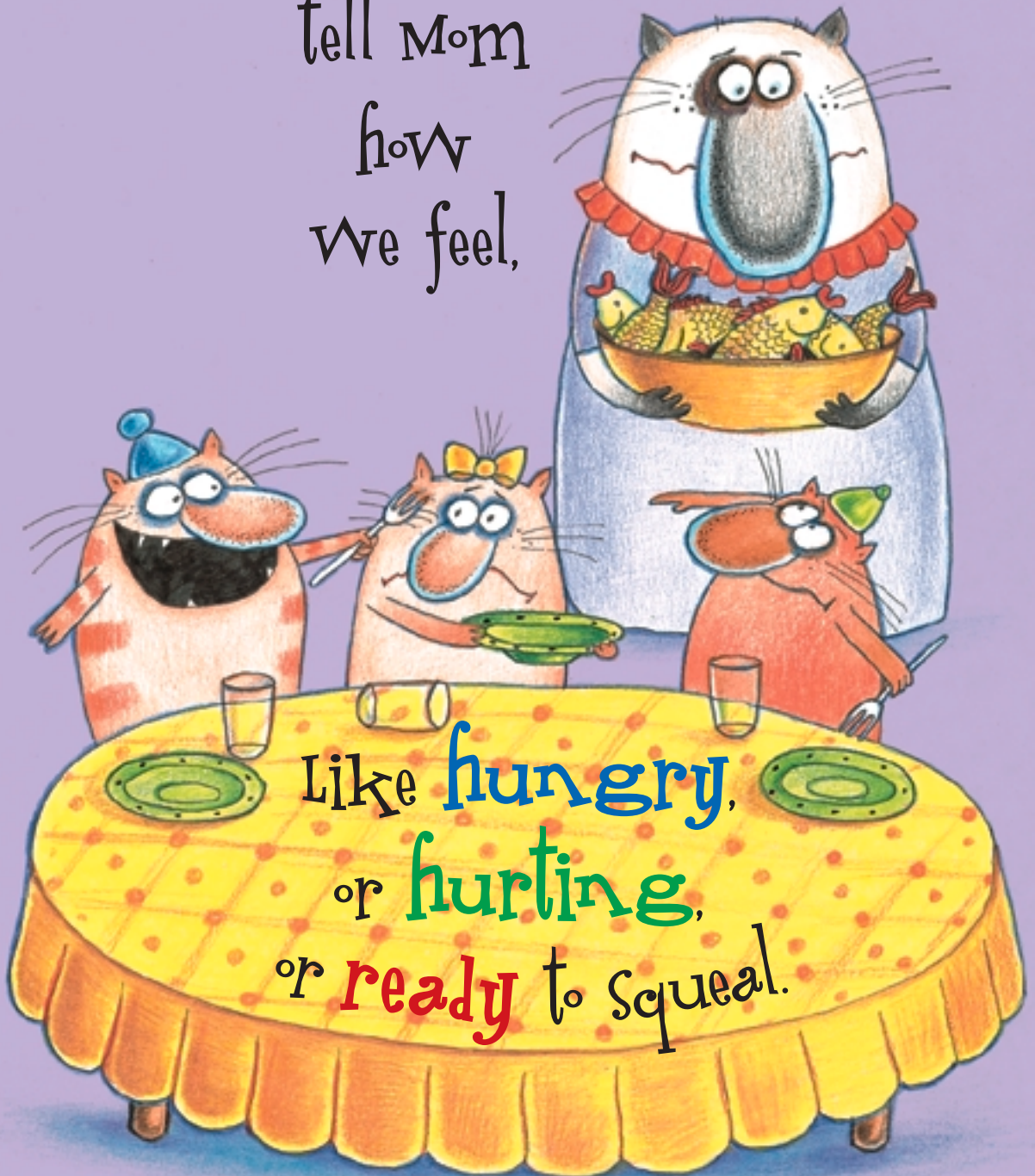
Or say
when
we're **grumpy**,



or when
we are
wired.



Without 'em we couldn't
tell Mom
how
we feel,





LopSided, one-Sided
ball games that bore us,



The sweet, gentle sounds
that descend from the chorus,



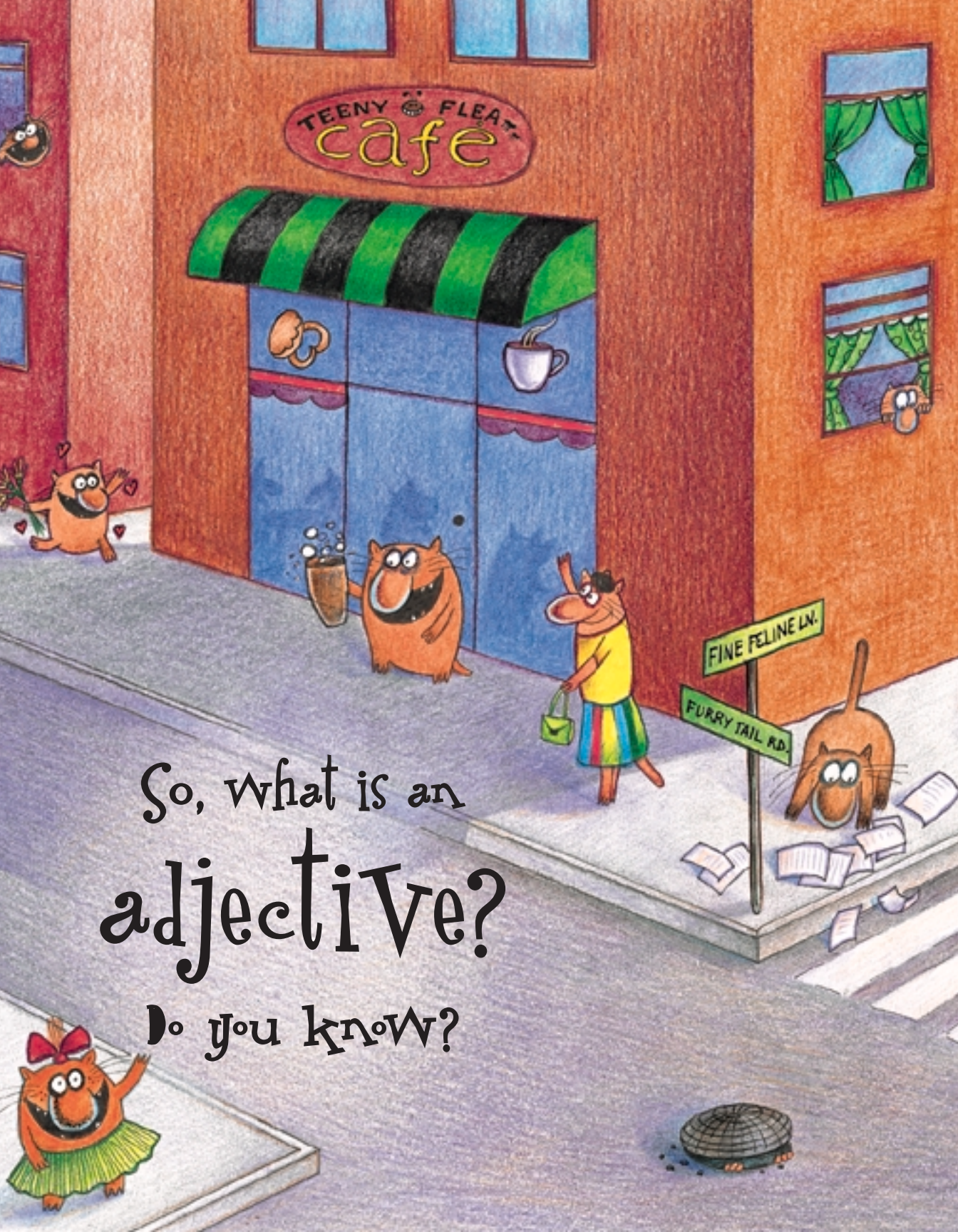
Mighty
blue

oceans and

tiny red

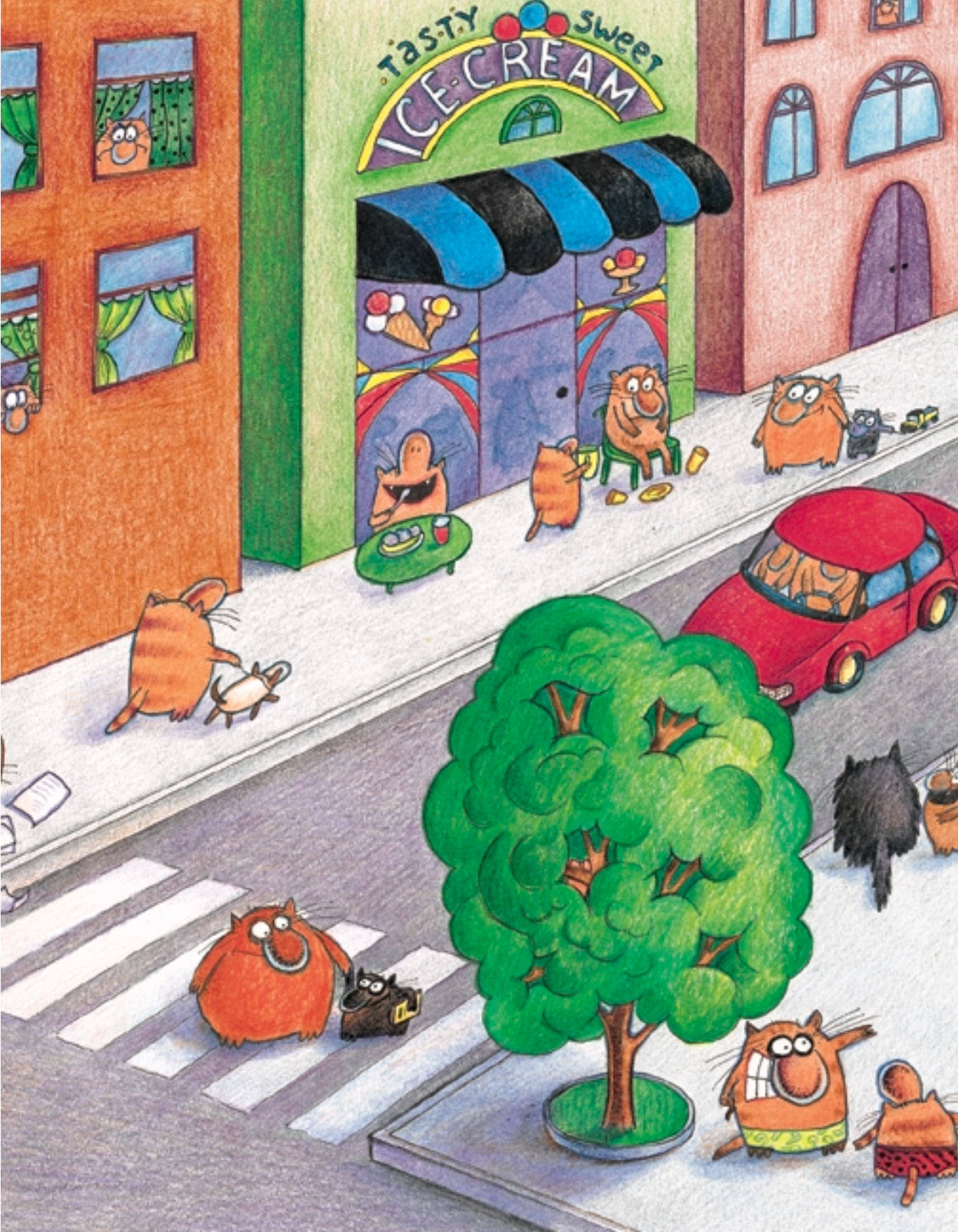
rings,

Adjectives tell us
of all of these things.



So, what is an
adjective?

Do you know?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

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JENYA PROSMITSKY grew up and studied art in Chisinau, Moldova, and lives in Minneapolis. Her two cats, Henry and Freddy, were vital to her illustrations for this book and A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What Is a Noun?

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Summary: Rhyming text and illustrations of comical cats present numerous examples of adjectives, from "hairy, scary, cool, and ordinary" to "tan and tall," "funny, frisky, smooth, and small."

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